



United States Department of the Interior

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



497878

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Mid-Continent Regional Coordinating Center

Alton Federal Building

501 Belle Street

Alton, Illinois 62002

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SUPERFUND DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. William E. Munro
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Munro:

As a result of our telephone conversation on February 12, 2003, I agreed to provide your office documentation of the reclamation work being conducted at the Lynnville, Indiana, Refuse Site by the Indiana Division of Reclamation (DOR) Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Program. You asked that I provide sufficient information to assure you that the AML project included all of the area described in your Screening Site Inspection Report dated January 1995. You provided me a copy of this report on February 12, 2003.

The Lynnville Gob Pile AML Reclamation Project is located within a large mining complex and is surrounded by older areas of abandoned surface mines. I have enclosed a map to clearly show the relationship of the AML project to the surrounding area. The AML project is shown on the map by a green polygon. A supplemental borrow area for the project is shown on the map in magenta. An active coal mining permit covers the processing plant on the north side of the project area. The boundary of this mine permit is shown on the map as a violet line and the processing plant is shown on the map as a red star to the north of the AML project site. Areas excluded from the mining permit, including the AML project area, are shown with red vertical hatch marks.

My staff and I have reviewed the construction plans for the Lynnville Gob Pile AML Project and the photos taken at the site during construction. The reclamation design for the project is typical of the designs used to reclaim other abandoned mine refuse areas throughout the Midwest. The project site was graded to establish positive drainage, covered with non-toxic, non-acidic soils, and seeded to establish permanent vegetation. The soil materials used to cover the coal refuse were taken from on-site sources and from the secondary borrow area indicated on the map in magenta. The gob and some of the slurry material was encapsulated so that it is no longer exposed to the air, preventing the oxidation that leads to acid formation. Because of the non-toxic nature of some slurry materials, direct revegetation has been successful on many other AML projects including conversion to wetlands. Indiana chose the direct revegetation option for

much of the slurry area and has also converted a portion of the slurry area in the Southeast corner of the project to wetland. The vegetation and designed drainage pattern will prevent erosion by water or wind, making the site physically stable.

The reclamation site covers approximately 260 acres, including borrow areas, surrounding levees, roads, and all refuse disposal areas. Within this total, all 82.5 acres of the gob pile were soil capped. Additionally, 86 acres of the slurry that were either barren or covered by volunteer phragmites wetlands, were directly revegetated (no soil cover). The direct revegetation acres included both new plantings as well as vegetation enhancement for existing vegetation. There was also a 10.5-acre polishing pond on the west side where hydrological adjustments were made (no planting or soil placement was required). The secondary borrow area totaled 15 acres. Multiple constructed wetland areas totaled 48 acres. Wetland areas were of two types, with and without substrate. Substrate was a combination of lime, corn stalks, composted yard waste, and spoil. Non-substrate wetlands were prepared with lime and spoil only. All wetlands were built on a one to two foot thick soil layer placed into the bottom of the wetland cell.

AML Project construction was completed on January 28, 2003. This date also began the one year contractor warranty period for all work completed. That warranty period ends January 27, 2004. Indiana's post-project review process has also started and they will monitor the site for both warranty items that the contractor will be required to address and non-warranty items that DOR will address under a separate contract. DOR has a post-construction monitoring policy that includes regular site inspections and needed maintenance on completed AML projects. These activities continue until DOR judges the project site stable for the long term. DOR advises me that, for a site of this magnitude and complexity, it is likely that they will monitor the reclamation, and perform necessary maintenance for a minimum of five years. Indiana will have the site flown for aerial photography as soon as the weather permits and the snow cover is gone. We will furnish you a copy of the photographs when they become available. I have enclosed pictures taken in September showing the reclamation in progress.

An active mining permit issued under the Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) covers the processing plant referenced in your 1995 report. Environmental restoration of the lands and water covered by this permit (Indiana DOR Permit No. S-20) is guaranteed by a \$10,892,253.50 bond held by DOR. Drainage from these areas is covered under an approved NPDES Permit that includes monitoring.

Based upon our review and knowledge of the Indiana DOR AML Program and the Coal Mining Regulatory Program, we are confident that the issues raised in your 1995 Screening Site Inspection Report have been addressed by the AML project or by the reclamation required under Indiana Mining Permit S-20 and associated bonds. In addition, the Indiana AML Program post-project review process will assure final reclamation is successful long-term and will provide any maintenance that might be required.

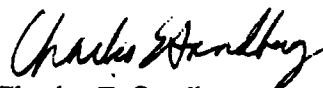
Mr. William E. Muno

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It is my understanding, upon your assurance that the concerns contained in your report are addressed, the site will be removed from your database. I believe the information we have provided does address your concerns and therefore ask that if you agree, the site be removed.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me as this issue continues to be of National concern to OSM and its AML Program States.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Sandberg
Acting Regional Director

cc Bruce Stevens, Indiana









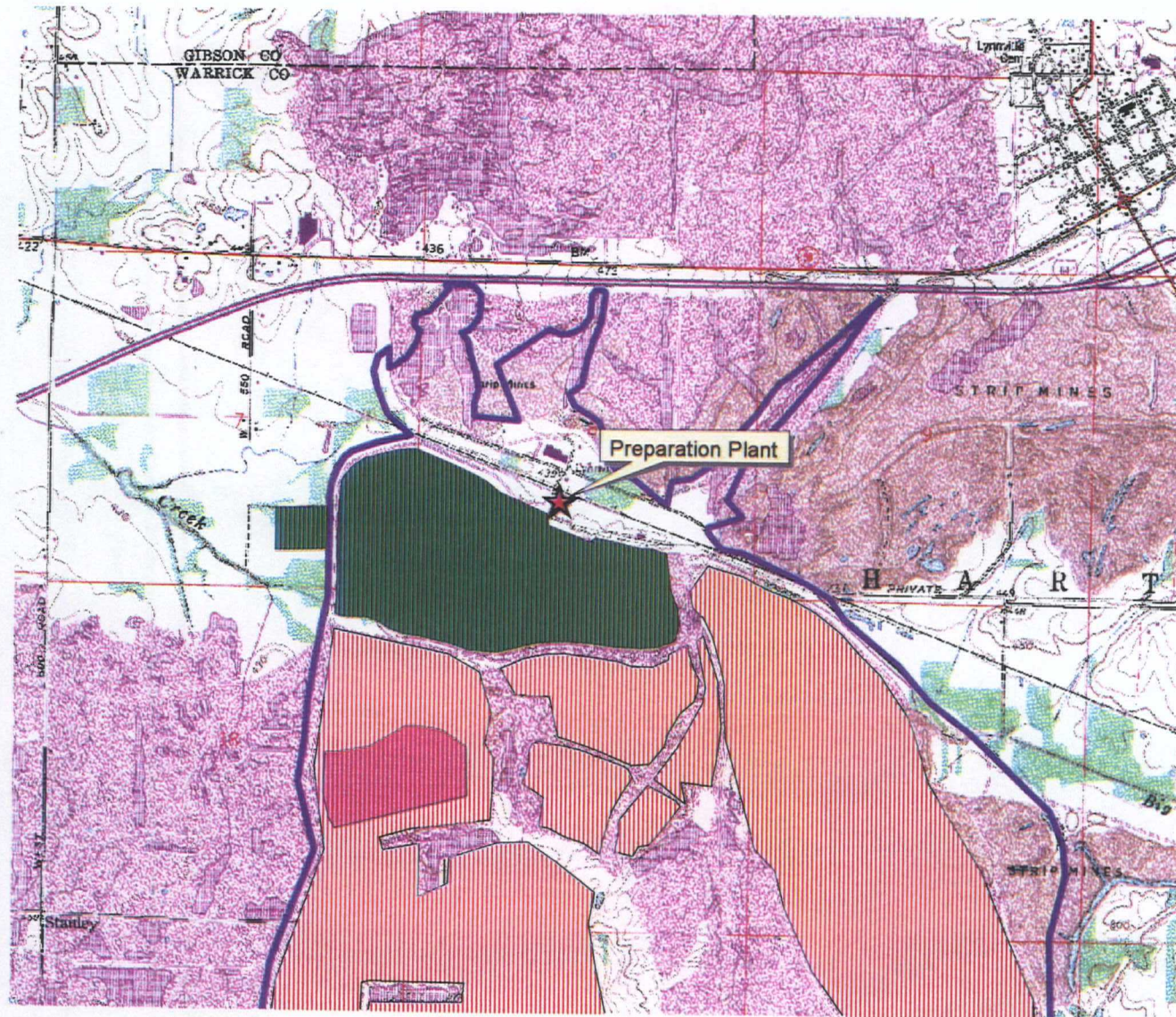




September 2002



Lynnville Mine - Permit S-20



Legend

- ★ Preparation Plant
- ▬ S-20 Permit Boundary
- Excluded From Permit S-20
- ▨ Not Affected by Project
- AML Project Area
- ▨ AML Project Borrow Area

